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Message Text

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21
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 (ISO) W
---------- 038544
R 211910Z MAY 76
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1150

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 2359

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ASEC ABLD
SUBJ: PROTECTION OF PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS

REF: STATE 118928

1. THE EMBASSY APPRECIATES SY SUPPORT FOR IMPROVEMENT OF SECURITY PROTECTION OF PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS AT THIS POST. THE VESTIBULE APPROACH RECOMMENDED BY OUR OM OF 11/12/75 SEEMS TO MAKE THE BEST SENSE TO US FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. IT OFFERS EXCELLENT POTENTIAL FORY KEEPING ANY THREAT THAT MAY DEVELOP IN THE VISITOR SCREENING PROCESS OUT OF THE BUILDING PROPER;

B. IT RETAINS THE EXISITING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE EMBASSY AND USIS LOBBIES WITHOUT EXTENSIVE INTERNAL MODIFICATION VOOPER-WISE REQUIRED TO PROTECT THESE AND ADJACENT PUBLIC AREAS;

C. IT PRESERVES THE PRESENT APPEARANCE AND IMPORTANT FUNCTIONAL USE OF THE LOBBIES; AND

D. ANTICIPATES FUTURE APPLICATION OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY NEEDED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN PRESENT VISITOR SCREENING METHODS.

2. THE DESIGN SKETCH OF THE VESTIBULE ACCOMPANYING OUR OM WAS INTENDED SIMPLY TO ILLUSTRATE THE BASIC IDEA. THE POST WOULD INDEED APPRECIATE ANY HELP SY AND A/FBO CAN PROVIDE IN THE REFINEMENT THEREOF FROM BOTH THE SECURITY AND ESTHETIC
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STANDPOINTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE EMBASSY LOBBY IS SUF-

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FICIENTLY SPACIOUS TO ACCOMMODATE AN INTERNAL VESTIBULE BUT
AT THE SACRIFICE OFOCE PRESENT PLANTED COURTYARD AND RELOCATION
OF STEPS LEADING TO THE COMMERCIAL LIBRARY ON THE RIGHT AND THE
CONSULAR SECTION ON THE LEFT, IF THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS SUCH
DESIGN PREFERABLE TO THE ORIGINALLY-PROPOSED EXTERNAL VESTIBULE.;
SEE EMBASSY OFFICE BUILDING PLAN A-4. THE USIS LOBBY HOWEVER
IS MUCH TOO SMALL FOR SUCH TREATMENT AND THE PAO HAS VOICED
STRONG OBJECTION TO ANY PHYSICAL CHANGES IN THE USIS LOBBY THAT
WOULD SERVE TO REDUCE THE SIZE OR OTHERWISE IMPAIR ITS PRESENT
IMPORTANT FUNCTION. (SEE PLAN A-3). AN EXTERNAL VESTIBQUE OR
A GATEHOUSE IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE BEST ANSWER AT THIS PARTICULAR
ACCESS WHICH IS NOW CONTROLLED BY AN UNARMED CIVILIAN GUARD ONLY.

3. THE DOUBLE SET OF DOORS INTO THE MAIN LOBBY AND THE SINGLE
DOOR INTO THE USIS LOBBY OPEN OUTWARD. THE ACCESS DOORS INTO
THE PROPOSED VESTIBULES WE AGREE SHOULD BE HUNG TO MOVE IN A
DIRECTION THAT WOULD NOT IMPEDE RAPID AND SAFE EGRESS FROM THE
BUILDING IN AN EMERGENCY. THE DOOR INTO AN EXTERNAL VESTIBULE
AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE COULD BE PLACED ON EITHER SIDE. HOWEVER,
FOR SAFETY AND SPEED OF EGRESS IN AN EMERGENCY DOORS COULD BE
PLACED ON EACH SIDE WITH ONE SET KEPT CLOSED EXCEPT DURING
EVACUATION OF THE BUILDING.

4. AUTHORIZATION AND FUNDING ARE REQUEEMED FOR THE POST TO
PROCEED AS INDICATED ABOVE UNDER APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES FROM
THE DEPARTMENT. ALTERNATIVELY, THE POST WOULD WELCOME AN
EARLY VISIT BY SY AND/OR FBO PERSONNEL TO EXPLORE ON SITE OTHER
POSSIBILITIES THAT MIGHT EXISTIKOR ACCOMPLISHING THE SAME
OBJECTIVE BETTER, QUICKER AND CHEAPER.
MOSKOWITZ

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